Rules of the SGM-SSM PhD Award

1. Purpose

1.1 The SGM-SSM PhD award distinguishes outstanding PhDs obtained in the field of microbiology and carried out in Switzerland or in close collaboration with Switzerland.

2 Candidates

- 2.1 Each candidate must have completed most of his/her PhD in Switzerland or in close collaboration with a Swiss university.
- 2.2 The candidate should have published at least one peer-reviewed article of significant impact in the field of microbiology.
- 2.3 The candidate must have completed his/her PhD maximum 2 years before the application.

3 Award / Award ceremony

- 3.1 The SGM-SSM PhD award is delivered annually.
- 3.2 The amount of the prize is decided upon by the SGM-SSM Committee according to available budget.
- 3.3 The SGM-SSM PhD award is presented to the winner on the occasion of the SGM-SSM annual meeting by the society's president or his/her representative.
- 3.4 On the occasion of the award ceremony, the award winner shall present the scientific achievements related to the award in a short closing lecture.
- 3.5 Travelling and accommodation costs shall be covered by SGM-SSM.

4 Applications

- 4.1 Every SGM-SSM member is entitled to propose a candidate. Self-applications are also possible.
- 4.2 Applications are to be submitted to the SGM-SSM general secretary (see below) to the attention of the Committee, including a detailed justification of the outstanding contributions of candidate's PhD in the field of microbiology (see Art. 1), as well as the candidate's CV and a list of publications.

4.3 Applications must be submitted to the SGM-SSM general secretary before the 31st of January. .

5 Judging / Decision

- 5.1 The SGM-SSM Committee acts as jury for awarding the PhD award. The Committee may seek advice by third parties.
- 5.2 In the event of an equal number of votes, the President's vote is counted twice.
- 5.3 If the applicant was proposed by the President, the double voting right is passed on to his/her deputy.
- 5.4 The SGM-SSM Committee is under no obligation to justify the decision process but must take its decision without any gender or ethnic discrimination.

Zurich, 29th August 2025

Prof. Hubert Hilbi

SGM-SSM President 2025-2027

Applications must be sent to:

Mrs. Nathalie Mermoud, General Secretary SGM-SSM, secretary@swissmicrobiology.ch